

William Swanston Charitable Fund

2022 Grant Focus Areas: Children First Initiative

About the William Swanston Charitable Fund

The William Swanston Charitable Fund is committed to supporting children in Mahoning and Trumbull counties who have experienced crises, including those who are/have been abused, neglected or dependent (children reliant on others and/or external systems of support, besides parents, for their care). Those experiences can limit opportunities for their gifts and talents to fully manifest throughout their lives. The Swanston Fund is the legacy of a local farmer who cared about his community and who wanted to uplift the well-being of others, especially children.

Granting Priorities

No child is the sum of the challenges and adversities they may have encountered, and all children deserve an equitable chance to pursue success. Reflecting on its commitment to fostering transformative change in the lives of children, **The William Swanston Charitable Fund will prioritize their grantmaking in 2022 for innovative projects that prevent or reduce the risk factors that can create disparities and create opportunities for all children in Mahoning and Trumbull counties to thrive in the following areas:**

- Health and Wellness – *Initiatives, that by providing early intervention for physical, mental, emotional and/or behavioral health dependencies, can result in greater opportunities for children to excel*
 - *Mental health and addiction* – proposals that address anxiety, especially for low-income youth
 - *Chronic Disease* – proposals that reduce asthma morbidity, especially for black children under age 18; and, promote healthy weight, especially for low-income youth
 - *Maternal and Infant Health* – proposals that reduce infant mortality and preterm birth; and, promote prenatal care
- Education – *Initiatives addressing the race and income disparities in education, especially for low-income youth and black and Hispanic youth, that exist in the following areas:*
 - Kindergarten Readiness
 - 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency
 - 8th Grade Math Proficiency
 - High School Graduation/College & Career Readiness
- Children's Services – *Initiatives that address the intersection of child welfare and parental substance abuse and/or parental incarceration, or initiatives that address the needs of youth involved with the juvenile justice system*

In addition, the William Swanston Charitable Fund prioritizes proposals that:

- Address underlying social and economic challenges contributing to poor health outcomes in the communities served, such as poverty, lack of access to healthy foods and absence of parks/recreational centers.
- Extend past individual behavior or program-related services by modifying policies, systems and environments to help make healthy options practical and readily available.
- Demonstrate collaboration among sectors, including public health, government, education, healthcare, etc.
- Prioritize engagement of residents from the communities served.
- Adhere to existing, evidence-based best practices or promising practices.
- Leverage additional funding as well as community assets.
- Provide an established plan for evaluation including measurable outcomes.

Target Population

The William Swanston Charitable Fund is interested in transforming the lives of Mahoning Valley children confronted with challenges to equitable opportunity. Research shows that children in the below demographics have been most adversely impacted by societal neglect and community disinvestment over time, and are therefore the primary target for support from Swanston:

- Low-income
- Non-Hispanic black
- Hispanic
- Living in the cities of Youngstown and Warren, as well as a few select disinvested communities
- Children facing challenges based on their experience(s) with abuse, neglect, dependency, and/or their experience with Children's Welfare or Juvenile Justice systems.